American Bee Journal

colony caught some seven years ago. These bees are located on A's 40 acre farm with other bees in small apiaries ½ mile distant. The farm and adjoining farms are producing mostly alfalfa crops.

A, having not given much attention to hiving, has let the apiary take care of itself resulting in most of the colonies building crosswise in frames, as no starter was provided when new swarms were caught. About one-half the colonies have done little else than live this season, and the total increase is ten swarms for this season, and about $60 worth of honey from the 50 colonies.

In June last A proposed to B that B care for A's bees on the co-partner plan of equal shares in the profits (increase being considered a part of profits), B to stand labor, expense except selling, which was done by both A and B. Later A proposed that B take one-half interest in the original 40 colonies on account of the extra work to put them in shape.

Now it appears to B that if he keeps A's bees for a term of years on this share and share alike plan (labor to be done by B) in a few years this plan would favor A to such an extent that B would be forced to quit.

So far very little else than section honey has been produced There are no tools, worth considering, furnished by A. B thinks he should take his half of the increase away so that he will not have to divide their increase and honey next season? How about B's interest in the original 40 colonies? B thinks that he would be giving too much the next season to leave them in the partnership apiary, while A thinks not.

Both parties are anxious to find a fair plan. A has not the time nor experience to care for bees, while B intends to build up this apiary and operate it in connection with other outapiaries. Any suggestions that would be fair to both parties will be very much appreciated. WASHINGTON

ANSWER.—The mix-up is new to me, and I am not sure I know enough to advise. But if I understand correctly, the agreement is that B gets half the crop and half the increase. If the arrangement were to be closed up at the end of the first year, then B would take away half the increase as his own property. Then if a new bargain were made for the next year, B's bees would hardly be considered in the transaction, and I hardly see how the case is any different if the arrangement continues from year to year. In other words, if B gets half the increase, that half is his own private property, and A has in it no claim whatever.

Bait in Sections

What is the least quantity of baits to be used in sections in a super of 32, to do the full good? PENNSYLVANIA.

ANSWER.—That depends on what you mean by "full good." The chief thing is to get the bees *started* in supers, and for that purpose I'm not sure that a single bait is less effective than a superful. If you mean to get the most honey possible, then the more baits the better, since of course bees will store more when saved the expense of making comb.

A Beginner

1. I have an old stand of bees in an 8-frame hive which I would like to transfer in the spring, but I do not know exactly how to do it to receive the best results, and would like to have you explain in full.

2. Is a queen and drone trap successful or not when a swarm stays on the outside of the hive, or do a lot of the bees go back into the hive again?

3. When you unite swarms is there any danger of them getting out the next day?

4. What causes them to destroy the sealed brood when they are united with a colony that has several combs of sealed brood?

ILLINOIS.

ANSWERS.—1. You want me to explain in full, and to do that I should have information in full, which you fail to give. All I know is that you want to transfer from an old 8-frame hive, but I don't know the size of frames the bees now have, although I am pretty safe in guessing that you want them in frames of Langstroth size. If they now have that size, 17⅝x9⅛, and you merely want to transfer from an old to a new hive, all you have to do is to give the bees some smoke, and then lift the combs, bees and all, from the old hive, and put them in the same order in the new hive. If you want to transfer into frames of different size, then just what is to be done depends upon the sizes of the old and the new frames. If the old frames are larger than the new, then cut out the comb, lay the new frame upon it, and cut to fit the inside of the frame, making the fit rather tight, and then tie strings around it. To do this latter easily, cut several strings, perhaps four or five for each frame, and have the strings long enough to reach around the frame from top to bottom, and then enough string to tie easily. Lay these strings upon a board in order, lay the comb upon the strings, put on the frame, and then tie. Better not try to lift the frame and comb from the board, but lift up the board with the frame on it so the frame will be in the right position, with top-bar up and then you can lift the frame.

2. A queen-and-drone-trap is successful in holding prisoner a queen that attempts to pass out with a swarm. When the swarm returns, a good many of the bees will cluster outside, but gradually they will go back into the hive, unless it be so warm that they prefer to hang out.

3. There is hardly any more danger than there is of a single swarm leaving the hive if it is too close and warm.

4. I don't know. I don't think I ever knew a case of that kind, although it might happen with drone-brood. In that case it would be killed when no longer needed.

Wintering—How to Make Bees Work in Supers

1. We are using 10-frame hives. Is it advisable to leave all ten frames for winter stores, or how much honey does the average colony need from October to April?

2. I have had trouble in getting some colonies to build in the supers. They had plenty of bees and honey in the lower box, but would not do anything in the supers.

3. Why will some colonies swarm when they have plenty of room, not even working in the supers?

4. Will bees work better in large or extracting frames than in sections?

ILLINOIS.

ANSWERS.—1. What you need to know is not how much the average colony needs but how much is needed by the colony that uses the most. Suppose you knew that the consumption by your bees the coming winter and spring would average 25 pounds, and you made sure to have 25 pounds of honey in each hive. The result would be that you would lose about half your colonies from starvation. For there is a big difference in the amount of stores consumed by different colonies, and you cannot tell beforehand which the big eaters are; and so the only safe course is to consider every colony a big eater, and provide accordingly. In your case it will probably be wise for you to leave not less than 30 pounds to each colony, and 35 may be better. Some would even prefer 40. You see there will be no waste if you give them five or ten pounds more than they need, for it will save their using just so much of the new harvest to fill up the brood chamber before storing in the super. Leave the whole ten frames for winter, with all the honey the bees have stored in them.

2. If sections are in the super, then you need to put in the first super given to each colony a bait section; that is, a section that was partly built out the previons season, and emptied by the bees in the fall. If the super contains extracted combs, then either the colony is not strong enough or else there is not honey enough to fill the brood-chamber and send a surplus above.

3. Hard to tell. Indeed, it is not entirely understood just why bees swarm at all, and such cases as you mention may occur for more than one reason.

4. It is generally believed that they will.

Index to Vol. LVI.

SUBJECTS

Advertisers, Our—48.
Advertising Contest, New York—95.
Advertising Honey—79, 129, 274, 275, 278, 334, 372, 387, 415.
Advertising Airline Honey—83.
Alder, Hoary—122.
Alfalfa, When Does It Yield?—136.
Alfalfa Honey—280.
Angry Bees—310.
Ants—244, 282.
Ants, to Destroy—82.
Aphids and Blight—202.
Apple Aphis—48.
Apples, Next—406.
Aroma of Honey, Retaining—64.
Aster Honey, Wintering on—319.
Australasian Beekeeping—373.
Australian Bee Farming—193.
Automobile Crossing—303.
Automobile, Chrysler—367.
Automobiles for Apiary—54, 58.

Bahama, Village Scene in—345.
Basswoods—64.
Baxter, E. J.—151.
Bee, Habits and Life Functions of—305.
Bee Houses—317.
Bee House of M. C. Silsbee—412.
Bee Moth—See Moth.
Bee Journals, Oldest—301, 352.
Bee Pirates of Africa—87.
Bee Tree, Cutting—314, 386, 424.
Bees, Live, Trading in—119.
Bees, Short Articles About—269.
Bee Suit—237.
Bee Yard, Thoughts From—416.
Beginning With Bees—172.
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF—
  Apple, The—25.
  Beekeepers' Library—24.
  "Elementary Entomology"—60.
  "Embryology of Honey Bee," Nelson—13.
  "Beekeeping Simplified—50.
  Pellett's "Productive Beekeeping"—12.
  Phillips' "Beekeeping"—13.
  "Productive Orcharding"—94.
  "Productive Vegetable Growing"—134.
Bisulphide of Carbon—354.
Bitterweed—340.
Blaker, C. D.—261.
Blight—41, 201.
Bloodroot—200.
Bottling Honey—282.
Bottom Boards—98.
Breed from the Best—228.
Breeding for Better Stock—264.
British Columbia Beekeeping—349.
Brood Chamber, Divided—169.
Brood Chamber, Divisible—100.
Brood Combs, Value of—63.
Brood, Diseased—281.
Building Up Colonies—245, 316.
Bumblebees Wanted—241.

Campanilla—20.
Campanilla Honey—24.
Canada, Honey Sources of—376.
Capping Can—47, 283.
Cardo of Chile—158.
Carr, E. G.—45.

American Bee Journal

Carolina Bee Club—388.
Catalpa—269.
Caucasians—136.
Cell Cups, Making Queen Lay in—208.
Cellar, Damp—283.
Cellared Bees—28.
Cellar Wintering—312.
Chase, Jos. H.—126.
Cherry, Wild—236.
Chile, Beekeeping in—157, 197.
Clematis, Wild—16.
Clipping Queens—135.
Clover—136.
Comb, Drone and Worker—235.
Combs, Bees Tearing—246.
Comb, Honey Production—64, 353.
Coaxer Super, Hubbard Bros.—347.
Colonies Strong for Harvest—168.
Colorado Honey Producers—170.
Color Sense, Bees Have—351.
Comb Foundation—See Foundation.
Comb or Extracted Honey—172.
Combs—231
Combs of Honey, Surplus—93.
Combs, Cleaning Old—315.
Combs, Getting Drawn—136.
Combs, Soaking, Old—205.
Combs, Old, Bees Emptying—208.
Cook, A. J., to Retire—120.
Co-operation in Honey Sales—120, 225.
Co-operation, Another Step in—265, 300.
County Agent Club—240.

COURSES IN BEEKEEPING—
- Connecticut—97.
- Iowa—48.
- Massachusetts—95, 205, 421.
- Michigan—48.
- Ontario—84, 206, 301.
- Rutgers, N. J.—423.
- Winona Lake—95.

Covers, Metal—136.
Covers, Telescope—136.
Crocus—200.
Crop, Average—265.
Crop Condition—301.
Crop Report, Ontario—388.
Crop Report, Yorkshire—123.
Cross Building of Combs—169.
Cypress—154, 317, 386.

Dairying and Vegetable Growing—372.
Decoy Hives—246.
De Muth, Geo. S.—46.
Diarrhea, Preventive—422.
Diseases—See Foulbrood, Paralysis, Moths.
Displays as Advertising—93.
Distance Bees Fly—49, 131, 244, 270, 348.
Drone Comb—315.
Drone Comb in Sections—137.
Drone—Laying Workers—13.
Drones in Worker Cells—27.
Dummies—391.

Eastern Beekeepers, Among—374, 408.
Egg Development—12.
Egg, Does Female Osmia Decide Sex?—275.
Eggs Sent by Mail—208.
Eggs Not Hatching, Cause—316.
Elderberry—90.
Entrance Guards—136.
Entrance for Winter—63.
Entrances Free From Ice—56.
Entrances—173, 280.
Equipment Number—265.
Eucalyptus—52.
Excluders—210.
Excluders for Extracting—135.
Exhibit, Langdale County—387.
Exposition, Honey at Panama-Pacific—203.
Extension Work at Washington—388.
Extracted Honey Production System—7.
Extractors for Honey—314.

FAIRS—
- Illinois—193.
- Kansas—278.
- Michigan—205, 241.

Farm Beekeeping—84.
Faulty Queens—390.
Feeder, Chrysler—339.
Feeders and Feeding—88.
Feeding—94, 242, 244, 315, 354, 424.
Feeding Honey in Winter—281, 416.
Fertile Workers Laying in Drone-Cells—84.
Fillaree or Pin Clover—162.
Florida, Bees in—100.
Foreign Beekeeping—192.
Foulbrood Insurance in Switzerland—171.
Foulbrood—208, 209.

FOULBROOD—
- American—27, 377.
- Goldens for—28.
- European—27, 29, 201, 271, 283, 353.

Foundation Fastening—354.
Foundation, Where to Place in Hive—99.
Foundation Painting—164, 246, 273.
Foundation, Importance of Full Sheets—223.
Foundation, Full Sheets—318.
Foundation, Starters, Putting in—174.
Frame, Heddon Compared to Langstroth—348.
Frame, Hoffman—99.
Frames, Shifting—99.
Frame, A Support—335.
Frame Wiring—342.
Freight Rates on Honey—407.
Fruit, Bees and Poultry—151, 407.
Furze or Gorse—163.

Goldens for Foulbrood—28.
Gorse or Furze—163.
Grades, Standard—192.
Grading and Packing Comb Honey—190.
Granulation—136, 207.

Hanging Out of Bees—312.
Hawaii, A Letter From—305.
Hawthorne,—379.
Heather—418.
Heat, Economy of in Hive—409.
Hive Cart, A New—342.
Hives and Swarms—203.
Hives, Double-Walled—63.
Hives, Dovetailed—99.
Hives for Comb Honey—390.
Hives, Half Story—317.
Hives, Sectional—276, 300, 307.
Hives, Size of—100.
Hiving Bees From Combless Package—239.
Hiving Swarms—245.
Hofman, E. L.—261.
Honey as Medicine—166.
Honey Box—26.
Honey, Care of—226.
Honey, Comb, Clean—17.
Honey Crop, Disposing of—262.
Honey Day—82.
HoneyDew—373, 381.
Honey, A Wholesome Sweet—349, 424.
Honey, Food Value of—12, 62, 89.
Honey Flow, Get Ready For—198.
Honey Flora of New England—122.
Honey-Production Plants—16, 53, 90, 162, 200,
Honey, Granulated—424.
Honey, Keeping Frames of—350.
Honey, Marketing Section—11.
Honey, Marketing—187, 414.
Honey Markets—31, 67, 102, 140, 176, 221, 285, 321, 335, 356, 393.
Honey Packages—189, 190.
Honey-Producing Plants—16, 63, 90, 162, 200, 236, 269, 311, 340, 379, 418.
Honey Plants—242.
Honey Plants of Cuba—20.
Honey Recipes—27, 98, 156.
Honey, Section, Keeping—316, 353.
Honey Sources of Tennessee—87.
Hops—90.
Hound's Tongue—378.

Immunity From Disease—86.
Increase—209, 315, 316.
Increase by Division—137.
Increase, Alexander Plan—209.
Introduction of Queens—160, 172, 353, 389.
Iron Weed—17.
Isle of Wight Disease—170.
Italians, Different Kinds of—315.

Japan, Beekeeping in—319.
Jersey Cattle Advertised—421.
June Management—192.

King Birds—244.

Lamb Kill or Sheep Laurel—123.
Laying Workers—173.
Leonard, Dr.—260.
Liguria, Bee Disease in—372.
Liguria, Italian Bees in—159.
Locations—207.
Locusts and Honey—82.
Loosestrife Honey—192.
Louisiana, Beekeeping in—59, 91.

Maiten Tree of Chile—158.
Manzanita or Bearberry—162.
Maple, Red—122.
Massachusetts, Beekeeping in—115.
Marketing Honey—191, 414, 415.
Mating, Distance for—209.
Mexico, What About?—351.
Mexico, Stingless Bees—422.

MEETINGS—
- Chicago—241, 422, 423.
- Connecticut—133.
- Eastern—96.
- Idaho-Oregon—22, 422, 423.
- Illinois—23, 351, 387, 421.
- Iowa—22, 229, 313, 387, 422.
- Massachusetts—22, 23, 95, 172, 240, 350.
- Michigan—60, 351, 388, 422.
- Minnesota—422.
- Missouri—98.
- Montana—23.
- National—24, 61, 121, 422.
- New Brunswick—206.
- New England—277.
- New Jersey—61.
- New York—22, 61, 97, 350, 381.
- Northwestern—See Chicago.
- Ohio—95.
- Ontario—23, 422.
- Pennsylvania—95.
- Quebec—62, 387.
- Tennessee—22, 284.
- Texas—82, 206.
- Tri-State—314.
- Washington—61, 171.
- Wisconsin—134, 351, 422.

Miller, C. C., Autobiography—10, 11, 50, 85.
Miller, C. C., Visit to—16.
Miller, C. C., Answers—27, 28, 63, 64, 98, 99, 100, 135, 136, 172, 174, 207, 208, 243, 244, 245, 279, 280, 281, 315, 316, 317 352, 353, 354, 389, 390, 391, 423.
Miller Book, A New—372, 422.
Minnesota Inspection—82.
Minnesota Notes—416.
Minnesota Snap Shots—259.
Missouri Bulletins—422.
Moldy Combs—207.
Moth—25, 244, 390.
Moving Bees by Rail—311.
Mustard—163.
McCray, Dr.—46.

Naphthaline as Insecticide—19, 405.
National, Influence of—411.
National Secretary's Report—133.
Nelson, James A.—46.
Net Weight Law—166, 167.
New England Beekeepers' Societies—126.
New England Flora—122.
New England Honeys and Markets—128.
New England Beekeepers—124.
Nw England Number—82, 120.
New England, Some Things She Has Done—130.
New Zealand, Beekeeping in—241.
New Zealand Regulations on Honey—134.
Non-Swarming Plan—173.
Nosema Apis—210.
November Thoughts—372.
Nuclei, Building Up With Brood—279.
Nuclei, Handling—245.
Nucleus, Wintering—99.
Nurse Bees, Influence of—14, 391.

OBITUARY OF—
- Abbott, Mrs. E. T.—24.
- Ahlers, H. C.—60.
- Brinkerhoff, J. J.—206.
- Clemmons, C. C.—206.
- Elliston, R. A.—65.
- Forbes, W. E.—60.
- Cook, A. J.—373.
- Cline, John—388.
- Moore, Herman F.—65.
- Wallace, Henry—120.
- Wood, Delos—89.

Oil Cloths—64.
Ontario, Beekeeping in—379, 413.
Ontario, Glimpses of—367.
Ontario Experiments—25.
Ontario, Provincial Apiarist, Work of—382.
Ontario, Wintering Bees in—384.
Orange Marmalade—421.
Organization, Why Honey Producers Should Have—306.
Overstocking—270.

Packing a Small Apiary—305.
Packing Bees for Winter—295, 334.
Packing Bees in Quadruple Cases—384.
Paralysis of Bees—14, 15, 29, 210.
Parthenogenesis—13.
Partnership—424.
Paste for Labels—279.
Pennyroyal Honey—226.
Peony—90.
Persicaria—92.
Pin Clover or Fillaree—162.

American Bee Journal

Phillips, E. F.—45.
Pollen—318.
Pollen From Dried Wood—279.
Pollen in Combs—28.
Pollen in Extracted Honey—354.
Pollination by Bees—61.
Porto Rico and Its Beekeepers—380.
Poultry and Bees—151.
Pound Packages—391.
Premiums at Fairs—83.
Prickly Pear—54.
Production Costs, How to Figure—271, 272.
Protective Club of Colorado Honey Producers' Association—278.
Publicity for Honey—209.
Put Up Plan—28.

Quadruple Cases—384.
Queens—99, 208, 245.
Queens From South—135.
Queen, Hatching in Cell—389.
Queens, Poor—100.
Queens, Breeding—234.
Queen Breeders—353.
Queen Cells, Cutting Out—98.
Queen Cells, Introducing—317.
Queen Leaving Hive in Winter—63.
Queens, What Constitutes Good—158, 159.
Queens, Clipping—161, 353.
Queens Disappearing—353.
Queens, Fertilization of—300.
Queens, Southern and Northern Bred—406.
Queen and Drone Traps—299.
Queens in Upper Story—354.
Queens, Young, Value of—153.
Queenlessness—29, 65, 245.
Queen Rearing—56, 173, 226, 234, 245.
Queen Rearing at Wisconsin—170, 313.

Raspberry, Wild—378.
Ray, F. W.—261.
Regulations in British Columbia—206.

REPORT FROM—

Australia—283.
California—167, 239, 246, 318.
China—391.
Connecticut—283, 318.
Cuba—209.
Idaho—283.
Illinois—283, 319, 355, 391.
Indiana—246.
Iowa—29, 318, 355.
Japan—319.
Michigan—29, 209.
Missouri—29, 210, 246, 283, 391.
Montana—391.
Nebraska—391.
North Carolina—246, 391.
Ohio—355.
Ontario—352, 355.
Pennsylvania—355.
Quebec—355.
South Dakota—29, 246.
Tennessee—319.
Texas—355.
Vermont—210.
Washington—391.
Wisconsin—29, 246, 355.

Requeening—209, 279, 355, 389.
Requeening vs. Fertile Workers—14.
Robbers and Robbing—244, 246, 355.
Root, L. C.—47.
Russia, Honey Crop in—277.

Sanders, J. G., to Pennsylvania—388.
Scales, Colony on—314.
Scholl, Louis H.—302.
Sectional Hives—276, 300, 307, 347.
Section Starters—135.
Sections, Getting Better Filled—268.
Sections, Net Weight—166, 167.
Sections and Dividers—19.
Sections, Plain or Beeway—420.
Sections, Unfinished—99.
Sections Unsealed in Center of Super—168.
Selling Honey—55, 263, 404.
Separators—19.
Sense Organs of Honey Bees—83, 192.
Senses of the Honey Bee—195, 232.
Seventy Years of Beekeeping—406.
Sheep Laurel—123.
Shifting Frames—99.
Shipping Bees—242, 244.
Shipping Bees to Canada—241.
Shipping Heavy Colonies in Hot Weather—154.
Shipping Bees, Disaster in—161.
Siberian Beekeeping—170.
Sight in Bees—83.
Single-Walled Hives, Wintering in—412.
Skunks—209, 333.
Smell vs. Sight—131.
Smoke Method—135.
Smoke, Distress Method—193.
Smoke Box, Campbell—346.
Sour Honey—28, 64.
South African Beekeeping—333.
Spraying and Bees—154.
Spring Beauty—200.
Spring Dwindling—310.
Spruce Trees for Bees—310, 311.
Squill—200.
Starvation in Bees—155.
Stimulation in Spring—421.
Stings—281.
Stingless Bees—100.
Stings, Serious Effects of—277.
Stings, Curing Inebriety—62.
Straw Mats—64.
Subscription Prices—422.
Sugar, Feeding—354.
Sumac Honey—64.
Supers, Adding—246.
Super Cleaner—346.
Supers, Failure to Work in—315.
Super, Inducing Queen to Work in—245.
Super, Kind to Use—353, 417.
Supers, Shallow—373.
Superseding—98.
Swarm Catcher, Box—339.
Swarm Control—208, 209, 317.
Swarm Control in Texas—18.
Swarm Prevention—98.
Swarm Prevention for Comb Honey—163.
Swarm Prevention, Greening Plan—239.
Swarming—65, 203, 208, 282, 312, 316, 317, 350, 354.
Swarming, Heading Off—300.
Swarms, Hiving—172, 318.
Swarms, Late—174.
Swarms, Returning—173.
Swarms, Settling—282.
Swarms, Weak—173.
Sweating of Hives in Winter—64.
Sweet Clover—51, 100, 120, 155, 271, 278, 391.
Sweet Clover vs. Ragweed—334.
Sweet Tooth—335.
Switzerland, Honey Prices in—240.
Syrup, Sugar—64.

"Telling" the Bees—241.
Temperature of Hives for Opening—173.
Tennessee, Notes From—332.
Texas Producers Organize—265, 406.
Texas, Short Trip to—194, 230, 266, 302.
Theory and Practice—419.
Thrift Taught by Bees—387.
Transferring—63, 137, 154, 172, 246.
Traps—98.

United Honey Producers—315.
Uniting—98, 136, 280, 316, 391.
Uniting, Screen Wire for—334.
Uniting Weak Colonies—29.
U. S. Department, Data for—243.

Ventilation—313, 353.
Vetch, Purple—124.
Vocational Opportunities in Beekeeping—269.

Washington, D. C., Examination for Assistant—315.
Washington, Beekeeping at—43.
Waste Paper, Save—205.
Waterleaf, Virginia—201.
Watering Device—341.
Wax Rendering—29, 137, 353.
Weak Colonies—174.
West India Ramble—343.
White, G. F., to Cereal Investigations—388.
Whitcomb, E., Golden Wedding—24.
Wild Bees—246, 353
Wingless Bees, Cause of—208.
Winter Cases for Northern Latitudes—336.
Wintering Bees—64, 65, 173, 193, 209, 279, 283, 301, 319, 354.
Wintering and Single Walled Hives—411.
Wintering Bees in Ontario—205, 384.
Wintering in the West—296.
Wintering Bees in California—298.
Wintering Bees in Barn Loft—348.
Winter Quarters—26.
Winter Warmth in the Colony—298.
Wire Imbedding, Electric—342.
Women's Department—26, 62, 93, 131, 132, 168, 169, 242, 278, 312, 349, 384, 420.

Yellow Jackets—337.
Yucca—53.

Zinc, Spoiled—27.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Acacia Decurrens—418.
Acacia Dealbata—419.
Advertising Sign for Honey—188, 189.
Advertising Honey—81.
Advertisements of Orange Growers—80, 81.
Afterswarms, Wintering—389.
Alder, Hoary—122.
Amherst, Mass.—131, 132.

APIARY OF—

Allen, Grace—331.
Axelton, W. C.—274.
Anguish, D.—369.
Bainard, E. T.—368.
Baxter, E. J.—153, 398.
Caraway, B. M.—195.
Carr, E. G.—374.
Chrysler, W. A.—368.
Craig, W. D.—25.
Dadants—8, 9, 10.
Deadman, G. A.—368.
Greiner, G. C.—263.
Hofman, E. L.—217, 263.
Hornor, H.—375.
Keister, C.—243.
Knox, S. J.—244.
Krouse, F. W.—370.
Massachusetts, A, C—117.
Minnesota University—411.
Ontario A. College—309, 361, 413, 414.
Pettit, R. B.—386.
Ray, F. W.—261.
Richardson, G. R.—238.
Roth, H. E.—275.
San Antonio, Chile—197.
Silsbee, M. C.—412.
Stacey, F. H.—422.
Sterner, E. E.—59.
Stevens, John A.—306.
Thompson, Geo. M.—94.
Tinsley, J. W.—95, 96.
Wicklein, F. A.—318.
Winkler, F. K.—268.

Apples—153.
Auto Truck of Coveyou—54.
Automobile of LeStourgeon—195.
Automobile of E. Willbright—416.

Bank Display of Bees—387.
Bartholomew, C. E.—22.
Baxter, E. J., Industries—151, 152, 153, 165.
Baxter, E. J., Home Apiary—153.
Bee Escape, Cheney—377.
Bee Hive—145.
Bee House, Silsbee—412.
Bee Suit—337.
Bitterweed—340, 341.
Bloodroot—201.
Box Hives in New Jersey—374.
Brood From Full Sheets—224.
Butterfield, Mrs.—259.

Campanilla of Cuba—20.
Campanilla Honey—21.
Campbell, W. H.—346.
Capping Can, Original—47.
Cardo of Chile—158.
Carr, E. G.—45, 374.
Cartoon of Boy—253.
Cary, W. W.—124.
Catalpa—269.
Chargogg, Lake—409.
Chase, Jos. H., Exhibit—126.
Chilean Hive and Apiary—157.
Chilean Bee Hand—198.
Cherry, Wild—236.
Clematis, Wild,—16, 92.
Coaxer Super of Hubbard Bros.—347.
Cochran, Jesse C.—25.
Combs of Brood, Drone, Etc.—224, 225.
Comb Honey—79.
Comb Honey Design—417.
Comb Honey, Honey Moon—160.
Combs—Section Across—231, 232, 233.

CONVENTION GROUP—

E. Massachusetts—127.
German Beekeepers' Club—128.
Connecticut—408.
New Jersey—376.
Ontario—383.
Tennessee—332, 333.
Texas—266, 267.

Cook, A. J.—373.
Craig, W. D., Home of—23.
Crane, J. E.—125.
Crocus—200.

American Bee Journal

Davis, J. M. and Ben—332.
Deer Killed by W. H. Law—267.
Demuth, Geo. S.—43.
Digger Wasp—87.
Dream, My First of Bees—282.

Elderberry—90.
Eucalyptus—51.

EXHIBITS—
English Flower Show—93.
Connecticut—129.
Yates, A. W.—130.

Feeder, Chrysler—339, 340.
Feeders—88, 89.
Feeders, Hofman—263.
Fillaree or Pin Clover—162.
Flora, Desert—273.
Foulbrood, European—73.
Frame, Danzenbaker—308.
Frame Support, Dr. Leonard's—335.
Frame Wiring Devices—342.
Furze or Gorse—163.

Gates, B. N., Demonstrating Bees—109
Gates, B. N.—115.
Gorse or Furze—163.
Grapes—151.
Graves, R. B., & Swarm—281.
Guayaba—21.

Hawthorne—379.
Hennepin View—338.
Hive Cart, A New—343, 344.
Hive After Rayment—203.
Hives, Danzenbaker—308.
Hives, Eke—276.
Hives, Heddon—308.
Hives, Scholl—309.
Hives, Sectional—308, 309, 347.
Honey Day at Our House—37.
Honey House Entry Way—7.
Honey, Loading—10.
Hops—91.
Horner, H.—375.
Horsemint—270.
Hounds Tongue—378.

Ironweed—17.
Jager, Prof. Francis—121.
Jager, Prof. Francis at Work—261

Langstroth, L. L.—124.
Latham, Allan—125.
LeStourgeon, E. G.—195.
LeStourgeon, E. G., Examining Bee—267.
Liguria in Italy—158.
Los Gatos Meeting—314.
Lupines—271.

Maguey Plant—194.
Maiten of Chile—158.
Maple, Red—122, 123.
Manzanita—162.
Massachusetts Apicultural Building—115.
Massachusetts Display and Exhibits—116, 117.
Millar, D. W.—21.
Millen, F. E.—133.
Miller, A. C.—125.
Miller Apiary—85, 86.
Miller, C. C.—10, 11, 50, 85, 229.
Miller Home—1, 51.
Miller Autograph—86.
Minnesota Beekeepers—260.
Minnesota Fair Building—259.
Monastery, Extracting at—58.
Morgan, R. A.—30.
Moth, Adult—403.
Mustard, Yellow—163.
Moth Eaten Combs—404, 405.
McCray, Dr.—44.
McIndoo, N. E.—192.

Nelson, James A.—44.
Nucleus Boxes—234.

Ontario Staff—382.

Packing Bees for Winter—289, 296, 297, 298.
Packing Case for Winter—305, 306, 385.
Packing, Wire for—297.
Paddock, F. B.—303.
Paralysis, Intestinal Wall of Bee—14.
Peony—91.
Pepperbush, Sweet—377.
Pettit, Morley—413.
Pettit, M., in Raspberries—378.
Pin Clover or Fillaree—162.
Phillips, E. F., at Desk—45.
Police Captain and Bees in City—262.
Poppies, Wild—271.
Porto Rico, Group in—381.
Prickly Pear—53.

Quadruple Cases—384, 385, 386., 414.
Queen Cell Cups—228.
Queen Cells, Doolittle Method—228.
Queen Cells, Frame of—227.

Raspberry, Wild—379.
Robin Took Advantage of Sign—372.

Scholl, Louis H.—302.
Secor, Eugene—52.
Section Cleaning Machine, Jager—18.
Section Folding Machine—423.
Sections, Types of—19.
Sections With Full Sheets—199.
Separators—19.
Separators of Tin—28.
Sheep Laurel—123.
Sladen, F. W. L.—310.
Snow, Hives Covered With—56, 57.
Spring Beauty—201.
Spruce, Norway—310, 311.
Squill, The Siberian—200.
Strawberries—152.
Super Cleaner, Deadman—346.
Swarm Catcher—339.
Swarm, A—245.
Tenement Hive of Mr. Ford—119.
Texas A. & M. College—303, 304.

Vetch, Purple—124.

Washington Experimental Apiary—45, 46.
Washington, Employees at—44.
Washington, Laboratory at—43.
Watering Device—341, 375.
Waterleaf, Virginia—201, 202.
Wax Models—416.
Wax Rendering at Massachusetts—117, 118.
Winter Case, Hoshal—336, 337, 338.
Winter Case, Krouse—336.
Winter Cases, Quadruple—336.
Wood, Delos—90.

Yellow Jackets, Protection From—337, 338.
Yucca—52.

CORRESPONDENTS

Adams, L. W.—133.
Anderson, Bruce — 240, 246.
Andrews, L. L. — 246.
Archdekin, J. F.— 58, 91.
Atwater, E. F.—420.

Barone, D.—411.
Bates, W. A.—318.
Baxter, A. C.—193
Beach, C. L.—97.
Bee, E. L.—318.
Bender, F.—319.
Bland, L. E. — 243, 349.
Bonney, A. F. — 19, 166, 268, 274, 332, 405.
Brenner, H.—18, 56, 380.
Bridgman, C. R. — 388.
Britton, H. W. — 172.
Brunnich, Dr. — 231, 298.
Bucher, C. F.—348.
Budd, T. D.—268.
Bull, John C.—423.
Burnett, R. A.—11.
Byer, J. L. —58, 161, 333, 377.

Carr, E. G.—205.
Carrillon, H. F. — 319.
Clair, N.—210.
Cole, E. M. — 310, 404.
Coppin, A.—284.
Coverdale, F.—166.
Cotterell, J. S.—14.
Cox, W. L.—171.
Crane, J. E. — 89, 124.

Dadant, C. P. — 47, 194, 230, 266, 272, 302, 374, 408, 414.
Dadant, M. G.—51.
Dale, C. W.—391.
Davis, O. S.—247.
Diemer, J. F.—29.
Dittmer, Gus. — 134, 422.
Doolittle, G. M.—159.
Durost, H. B.—206.

Farrell, P. S.—423.
Farrington, E. I. — 119.
Flick, H. H.—355.
Flint, E. P.—243.
Foster, Wesley — 54, 170, 190, 270, 296.
France, N. E.—163.

Gadberry, H. C. — 210.
Gano, R. C.—79, 306.
Gates, B. N. — 24, 240, 269.
Geddes, W. F.—307, 347.
George, F. F.—283.
Getaz, A.—87, 234.
Gibbs, H. O.—354.
Gilbert, A. C.—168.
Gilstrap, J. G. — 310.
Greiner, F.—97, 198, 276, 299, 415.
Greiner, G. C.—19, 262, 416.

Hadsell, B. A. —355.
Hand, J. E. — 273, 305.
Haseman, L.—422.
Hassinger, E., Jr. — 164, 246, 355.
Hawkins, K. — 206, 239, 283.
Hayes, G. F.—161.
Headlee, Thos. J.— 423.
Heberle J. A. — 381.
Hines, Mary L.—169.
Hiratsuka, Y.—319.

Jager, Francis — 17, 411.
Jeffrey, H. L.—318.
Judge, G. W.—93.

Kaufman, J. D.—391.
Kelley, A.—209.
Kingsmill, G. F. — 379.
Knoll, E. T.—355.

Latham, A. — 128, 283.
Le Stourgeon, E. G. —16, 55.
Lhommedieu, D. E. —29, 86, 234.
Long, I. E.—283.
Lovell, John H. — 122, 275.

Macey, L.—391.
MacDonald, D. M.— 88.
McIndoo, N. E. — 195, 232.
Manley, B. A.—355.
Mathie, Helen—130, 420.
Merrill, J. H.—202.
Millar, D. W. — 20, 209.
Millen, F. E. — 61, 133, 154, 351, 389, 422.
Miller, A. C. — 130, 191, 271.
Miller, C. C. — 10, 27, 28, 29, 50, 63, 64, 65, 85, 98, 99, 100, 135, 136, 167, 172, 173, 174, 201, 207, 208, 209, 235, 243, 244, 245, 279, 280, 281, 315, 316, 317, 318, 352, 353, 354.
Morris, J. H.—246.
Moore, J. P.—158.
Moore, W. B.—23.
Morgan, R. A. — 30, 246.
Morris, G. E.—210.
Morse, Josephine, — 126, 350, 421.

Ohlinger, C. T.—20.
Oreggia, V.—159.
Overstreet, Mrs. F. B.—421.

Pangburn, W. S. — 201, 277.
Parsons, A. S.—419.
Pellett, F. C.—7, 12, 16, 43, 53, 90, 96, 115, 121, 151, 162, 187, 200, 223, 236, 259, 269, 275, 295, 311, 331, 336, 340, 367, 379, 403, 418.
Pettit, Morley — 23, 206, 370, 413.
Pettit, R. B.—384.
Pleasants, J. E.—15, 89, 167, 239, 298.
Porter, W. L.—304.

Rauchfuss, F. — 167.
Raymert, T.—203.
Richardson, G. R. — 237.
Richter, M. C.—157, 197.
Ritland, O.—168.
Roberts, W. L.—88.
Robinson, Florence— 242.
Romain, Bro.—391.
Sands, B. P. — 22, 126.
Schaffhauser, P. — 246, 278, 391.
Shallard, Major—283.
Silsbee, M. C.—412.
Skinner, H. T.—181.
Sladen, F. W. L.— 376.
Springer, H. C.—29.
Spuhler, H. — 160, 409.
Stanley, Grant—355.
Stephens, Geo. W. — 168.
Stevens, J. A.—305.
Stine, J. W.—314.
Strittmatter, F. J.— 238.
Stuart, C. D. — 203, 313, 337.

Thomson, G. M.—30.
Todd, F. Dundas — 169.
Tourneur, N. — 418.
Truss, J. R.—170.
Turrell, H. B.—239.
Verrett, J.—355.
Visconti, V.—277.
Vollmer, W. F.—277.
Vollmer, W. F.—277.

Weber, C.—355.
Werner, L.—355.
Wernicke, O. H. L. —311, 348.
Wheeler, Geo. S.— 131.
White, Mrs. C.—242.
Whitt, C.—29.
Wicklein, F. A. — 319.
Willbright, Edw. — 416.
Williams, Geo. W.— 315.
Wilson, Emma M. — 26, 62, 63, 94, 132, 168, 169, 242, 279, 280, 312, 313, 349, 350, 384, 420.
Wilson, H. F.—313.
Winship, L.—56.
Winslow, A. A. — 240.
Withrow, Mrs. J. — 63.

Yancey, J. D.—391.
Yates, A. W.—129.
Young, W.. J.—343

Zahner, M.—319.

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